# Annual Report of Bankruptcy Appeals in Participating BAP Districts for the Statistical Year July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2005 (Including Disposition Statistics for Appeals Disposed of Since July 1, 1996)

Prepared by the BAP Clerk's Office on behalf of the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Tenth Circuit

September 30, 2005

### PRELIMINARY NOTES

The following numbers were calculated from monthly reports provided by the Bankruptcy Courts. The relevant dockets of the Bankruptcy Courts, the District Courts, and the Court of Appeals were examined to verify the information.

**ELECTIONS** (Filed Appeals)

The following chart shows the data for all appeals in which the notice of appeal was filed with the Bankruptcy Court between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2005. The data contained in this table was selected using criteria that differs from that used to select data for the other tables contained in this report, and the information in this table may not correspond to that contained in the other tables.

	'04-05:	% of Appeals:	Change '03-04 to '04-05:
All appeals:	158	100%	14%
Initial election to appear before the BAP:	104	66.0%	-9%
Initial elections to have appeal heard by District Courts:	54	34.0%	9%
BAP appeals transferred to District Court on subsequent election:	$4^{2}$	3.0%	-3%
Total cases electing to proceed before BAP:	100	63.0%	-73%
Total cases electing to proceed before District Courts:	58	37.0%	7%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For the purposes of this particular table, information was gathered regarding all appeals filed in the Bankruptcy Courts during the period from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2005. All later tables show only appeals docketed by either the District Court or the BAP during that time period. Use of the date the notice of appeal was filed with the Bankruptcy Court prevents undercounting elections where either the notice of appeal was disposed of by the Bankruptcy Court before the record was sent to the District Court, or where an election was granted by the BAP but the record had not been received by the District Court.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>This figure shows all elections to have an appeal heard by the U.S. District Court granted by the BAP from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2005, regardless of when the notice of appeal was filed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The decrease is due in part to one bankruptcy court order that spawned 16 appeals. Because the order related to issues of state law, the appellant elected to take the appeals to the district court.

### **ELECTIONS** (Docketed Appeals)

The following chart is based only upon cases docketed by either the District Courts or the BAP between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2005. This is in accord with the practice of the Administrative Office.

	'04-05:	% of Appeals:	Change '03-04 to '04-05:
Total number of appeals docketed:	159	100%	14%
Appeals initially docketed with the BAP:	103¹	65%	-12 <sup>2</sup> %
Appeals subsequently transferred to the District Courts:	4 <sup>3</sup>	3%	-3%
Appeals initially docketed with the District Courts:	56	35%	12%

(cont'd)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>This figure shows only new appeals docket with the BAP and does not include etwo reopened appeals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The decrease is due in part to one bankruptcy court order that spawned 16 appeals. Because the order related to issues of state law, the appellant elected to take the appeals to the district court.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>This figure shows all elections to have an appeal heard by the U.S. District Court granted by the BAP from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2005, regardless of when the appeal was filed, and regardless of whether the District Court has docketed the appeal. Some of these elections were not docketed by the District Courts before the end of this reporting period. Conversely, some elections docketed by the District Courts may have been granted by the BAP during the previous reporting period.

### ELECTIONS (Docketed Appeals) (cont'd)

The total number of appeals subject to final disposition before each court is as follows:

	'04-05:	% of Appeals:	Change '03-04 to '04-05:
Total appeals docketed and proceeding before both intermediate appellate courts:	158	100%	14%
Appeals docketed and finally proceeding before the BAP:	99	63%	-8 <sup>1</sup> %
Appeals docketed and finally proceeding before District Courts:	59 <sup>2</sup>	37%	8%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The decrease is due in part to one bankruptcy court order that spawned 16 appeals. Because the order related to issues of state law, the appellant elected to take the appeals to the district court.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>This figure includes only those elections actually docketed by the District Courts during the reporting period. Some elections granted by the BAP were not docketed by the District Courts before the end of this reporting period. Conversely, some elections docketed by the District Courts may have been granted by the BAP during the previous reporting period.

# DISPOSITIONS

The following chart is based upon all cases docketed by the BAP for the nine-year period from July 1, 1996, to June 30, 2005.

	Total:	% of All Docketed BAP Appeals:
Appeals docketed and finally proceeding before the BAP:	723	100%
Appeals disposed of by the BAP:	668	92%

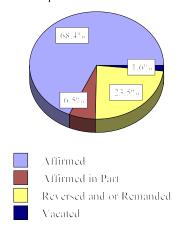
# DISPOSITIONS ON THE MERITS

The following calculations are based on appeals actually disposed of by the BAP <u>for the nine-year period from July 1, 1996, to June 30, 2005</u>.

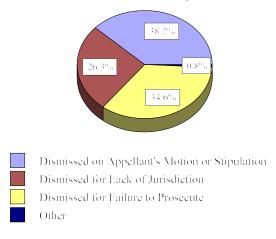
		% of All Disposed BAP Appeals:
Appeals Disposed of by the BAP:	668	100%
Appeals Disposed of by the BAP on the Merits:	307	46%
Appeals Affirmed:	210	31% (68% of appeals disposed of on merits)
Appeals Affirmed in Part:	20	3% (7% of appeals disposed of on merits)
Appeals Vacated:	5	1% (2% of appeals disposed of on merits)
Appeals Reversed (or Reversed and Remanded):	72	11% (24% of appeals disposed of on merits)

# COMPARISON OF DISPOSITION METHODS July 1, 1996 to June 30, 2005

BAP Dispositions on the Merits



**BAP Procedural Dispositions** 



### DISPOSITION TIME

The following calculations are based only on appeals actually disposed of by the BAP between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2005. Note that the disposition time is measured from the date that the notice of appeal was filed with the Bankruptcy Court to the date of entry of the final disposition in the appeal.

BAP AppealsAverage Disposition Time:	152 <sup>1</sup>
Median Disposition Time:	141

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Eleven of the appeals disposed of during the report period were filed with the District Court and subsequently transferred to the BAP. Including those figures here would severely skew the results (an average of 457 days elapsed between the date the notice of appeal was filed and the date the BAP docketed the appeal). The disposition time for the eleven appeals averaged 137 days, measured from the date the notice of appeal was docketed by the BAP to the date the appeal was terminated.

# APPEALS TO CIRCUIT

The figures below provide the number of appeals from the BAP to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals for the six-year period from July 1, 1996, to June 30, 2005.

	% of Appeals Disposed of By The BAP:
120	18% (39% of all appeals disposed of on the merits).
	120

Circuit Appeals from BAP Disposed:	107	
Circuit Appeals from BAP Disposed of on Merits:	48	
Appeals Affirmed:	42	88% of appeals disposed of by Circuit on merits.
Appeals Affirmed in Part:	1	2% of appeals disposed of by Circuit on merits.
Appeals Reversed (or Reversed and Remanded):	5	10% of appeals disposed of by Circuit on merits.

Average Disposition Time for Circuit for Appeals taken from BAP (from date notice of appeal filed with the	
BAP to date terminated):	287